

Andrew Jackson to Francis Preston Blair, December 5, 1843, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.

class=MsoNormal>TO FRANCIS P. BLAIR

Hermitage, December 5, 1843.

. . . . I hope before this reaches you that you will be triumphantly Elected printer. My dear sir, how I regret to be informed that Mr. Kendall should have been writing letters to the members soliciting the appointment of printer under the present circumstances of our political struggle. were you in his situation, and he in yours, surely with all my friendship for you, I would condemn you for such a course, as I do him for this, notwithstanding all my friendship for him—for your defeat would do more to seperate the democracy than all divisions about the nominee for the Presidency could do. You know I can have no confidence in Mr. Calhoun. he would, like Bell, sacrafice any one who he supposed was in the way of his own perferment, but I tell you now, was he and all his friends to go over to Clay he could not carry So. Carolina with him, he would destroy himself but could not weaken VanBuren. if V.B. is the nominee, he carries So. Carolina against all Calhouns interest—of this I am well advised by Gentlemen of the first respectability in that state, and now, was it put to the vote of the people of that state V.B. would outvote him. There is nothing to fear then from Mr. C. defection.

But if what I am just informed of, be true, it may defeat Mr. Van Burens being the nominee at the Baltimore convention, viz , that V.B. is to be run for President and Mr. Calhoun for vice. It is rumored that the friends of Col. Johnson finding he cannot be the nominee for President will urge him for vice. Col. King will be pressed for vice, and so will Col. Polk. will not the friends of V.B. who have originated this Union of Mr. calhoune with V.B. raise

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competition and combination between Johnsons Kings and Polks friends. be assured Polk is strong in the south and west and in Pennsylvania. Mr. V.B. has not any thing 0272 248 to do with this copartnership, it must, if true, be with his imprudent friends or some apostates who wishes his destruction to the democracy. It may cause a coalition with Cass or Buchannan by the friends of Johnson, King or Polk and thereby defeat V.B. nomination by the Baltimore convention. The very idea of combining V.B. and C. after the attack of Calhouns friends on V.B. smells of treason somewhere. I cannot believe it, altho Genl. Armstrong sends me word this evening, it is so. I then say to my democratic friends, beware of the grecian Horse getting within the walls of Troy.